PS 84 US LSR

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53
ACTION SS 70

INFO CIAE 00,/070 W

R 031130Z SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4590

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5171

LIMDIS

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AVIV 5147

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY: G.M. Razi DATE: Sept. 19, 1980
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. ASSISTANT DIRGEN FONMIN BITAN CALLED AMBASSADOR SEPT 3 AND CONFIRMED STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY GIVEN DCM BY ELIZUR THAT (A) ISRAELI NOTE OF AUG 5 DID NOT CONSTITUTE DEPARTURE FROM POSITION ADOPTED BY GOI IN ITS NOTE OF JUNE 10, 1967 AND (B) AUG 5 NOTE DID NOT CONSTITUTE STATEMENT BY GOI THAT ITS SETTLEMENT OF DEATH CLAIMS HAD BE EX GRATIA.

2. BITAN SAID HE WOULD LIKE MAKE PERSONAL PROPOSAL WHICH HE FELT, IF AGREEABLE TO US, WOULD BE APPROVED GO GOI. UNDER HIS PROPOSAL, WE WOULD RETURN GOI NOTE OF AUG 5 WHICH WOULD THEN BE REPLACED BY NEW NOTE WHICH WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OUR NOTE OF JULY 1 AND STATE THAT CONSIDERATION OF CLAIM MADE THEREIN WOULD TAKE PLACE AT SAME TIME AS CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS EXPECTED TO BE MADE FOR PERSONAL INJURIES.

3. IT IS CLEAR GOI MOST RELUCTANT TAKE ANY STEPS TO FINALIZE AGREEMENT ON SUM TO BE PAID OF RDAMAGES TO SHIP UNTIL IT HAS OPPORTUNITY KNOW AND CONSIDER HOW MUCH PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS WILL BE. EMB BELIEVES PARAMOUNT AMERICAN INTEREST SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN FULL PAYMENT PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS. WHILE WE DO NOT NECESSARILY PROPOSE SCALING DOWN CLAIMS FOR SHIP, WE BELIEVE IT MOST IMPORTANT NOT TO HAVE OUR DESIRE

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FOR FULL PAYMENT OF SHIP CLAIMS RESULT IN SITUATION WHICH WOULD DETRACT FROM OUR ABILITY TO GET FULL AND PROMPT PAYMENT FOR PERSONAL INJURIES WHEN THOSE CLAIMS ARE MADE.

4. EMBASSY THEREFORE STRONGLY FEELS PROPOSAL SUGGESTED BY BITAN SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. THIS WILL REMOVE FROM RECORD ANY INDICATION GOI DISAVOWAL OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGES AND HINT OF EX GRATIA BASIS DEWNH CLAIMS CONTAINED THEIR AUG 5 NOTE. ACTION ON VESSEL DAMAGE CLAIMS WOULD THEN REMAIN IN ABEYANCE UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO SUBMIT PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS AND GOI THEN ABLE TO SEE TOTAL MAGNITUDE OF WHAT WE ARE ASKING.

5. REQUEST AUTHORIZE AGREE TO BITAN SUGGESTION.
GP-3 BARBOUR

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